

the Country, as every Man who is so cannot but know, that the only Way of raising Money immediately was by taking it out of the Paper Money Office, where it lay ready, and which might have been done in a Day or two as well as in Months or Years, and wherein no Time ought to have been lost, because the Nature of the Service required the utmost Dispatch, and the Means of replacing the Money might have been considered and provided for at Leisure: But lest these Contrivances could not have the intended Effect, another Expedient was thought of; and that was, to clog the Bill with a Tack quite foreign to the Subject Matter of it; and as an Apology was necessary for the Absurdity of such a Procedure, all possible Art is used to possess as many as could be imposed on, that an Agent was absolutely necessary for the Country, that the critical Time for obtaining one was now come, and that the Upper House dared not to give their Negative to a Bill which had the Appearance of being for his Majesty's Service, notwithstanding the Impropriety of the Tack, this Notion was industriously inculcated even after the Upper House had refused to pass the Bill, and Assurances confidently given, that altho' the Upper House had once refused it, yet that they would not persist in such Refusal if it was sent to them again. These Artifices unhappily prevailed on a Majority of your House, to admit of no Amendments, and to resolve no other Bill should be brought in; thus the Time was lost 'til it was too late to do any Thing concerning the Supplies, and thus all the Professions of Loyalty to his Majesty and Zeal for the common Cause vanished.

After this, a most extraordinary and unheard of Step is taken by your House concerning Governor *Shirley's* Letter to me, which you ordered to be Printed without my Consent, or any Application to me for that Purpose, which in the Case of private Persons, would have been a plain Breach of all the Rules of Decency and Good Manners, and might in this Instance, if Care had not been taken to prevent your Order being carried into Execution, have given his Majesty's Enemies such Intelligence, as would, if the Wickedness could be as plainly proved as the Weakness of such a Step, have made the Authors guilty of High Treason; but according to your Opinion, it is a fundamental Privilege of your House to publish what you please, be the Consequence what it will.

It may not perhaps be amiss in this Place to take Notice of the Agent, who is represented to be so necessary and of such Importance, that his Majesty's Service must be sacrificed to an Attempt to obtain one; and who was not to be an Agent for the Province in general, nor was the Governor and Council to have any Share in the Nomination or the Direction of the Person, nor in the Application of any Part of the Money interced to be raised for his Support. But this Agent (to use your own Words) was "as well to keep up a congratulatory Correspondence of Praise and Thanks for the Blessings you (the King's remote Subjects) receive from his Majesty, as on every Occasion, by Oppressions and Hardships laid on you, in humble and decent Manner to lay your Complaints before his Majesty;" but the Governor and Council must be excluded from this Correspondence, and not allowed to join either in the Congratulations or Thanks; pray Gentlemen let me ask you, whether any Lower House of Assembly in *America* has such an Officer allowed them exclusive of the Governor and Upper House?

The Money for this Agent was to be raised on the People, and applied to such Uses as the House of Delegates only, in the Plenitude of that Power which you have declared in a Message and Resolution you are invested with, shall think fit; a Power which the House of Commons in *England* makes no Claim to: And to obviate any Pretence of representing it in a wrong Light, I will use your own Words in your Message,

wherein you declare, "that you conceive it to be the undoubted Right of the House of Delegates alone, to raise up on the People of this Province any Sum of Money or other Tax, and for such Time, and in such Manner, and to be applied to such Uses, as that House shall think proper." And you have likewise resolved, that it is the "undoubted Right of the House of Delegates to raise on the People of this Province any Sum of Money, or other Tax, and for such Time, and in such Manner, and to such Uses and Purposes, as to them shall seem meet." This is a Stretch of Power unknown to a *British* Constitution, and by what Authority, or upon what Pretensions you have made it, yourselves only can tell.

If this Project of an Agent should ever succeed, it would answer a very necessary Purpose to the Promoters, viz. the furnishing a plausible Pretence of rendering no Account of considerable Sums, amounting (as I am informed) to above four hundred Pounds Sterling, raised several Years since by private Subscriptions, on Pretence of defraying the Expence of bringing some Complaints, which the Country has been long amused and inflamed with, to a Decision in *England*; and although much less than half the Money already subscribed would have been sufficient for the End for which it was pretended to be raised, not one single public Step is yet taken to bring the Complaints to any Issue or Determination: Nor is it to be imagined by any sensible Man, who will make Use of his Reason, that the Managers ever intended there should be any Determination of them.

During these Transactions and this Waste of Time in your House, the People without Doors were exasperated that no Supplies were given for the Defence of *Louisburg*, as well as at the Probability that no Business would be done, and that the Country would be run to a great and fruitless Expence; which alarmed the Managers, and made them think it necessary to endeavour to pacify them: To this End an Inclination is dissembled to carry on the public Business, and a Conference was proposed to the Upper House to settle Officers Fees, which was readily agreed to, and Conferees appointed; to these some Members of your House were joined, who had for several Years industriously endeavoured to inflame and keep up the unhappy Differences which have too long subsisted in the Country, wherein they have been but too successful. This Choice of your Conferees gave every Man, who was anxious for and sincerely wished the public Welfare, a very bad Prospect of the Event; and these Gentlemen acted as it was expected and foreseen, tho' they behaved plausibly for some Time, in View (as I have Reason to believe) to gain Time to send me two unmannerly Addresses; one about the Pound of Tobacco per Taxable levied in Virtue of the Militia Law, which, tho' it is as evidently in Force as any Law in the Country, yet a Majority of your House were deluded into a Belief that it did not exist, but was expired many Years since, merely to have a Pretence to abuse a lawful Act of the Government; and the other about Fines and Forfeitures, in hopes of provoking me to resent such Treatment as it really deserved, and thereby to obstruct all public Business. But when this Scheme failed of Success, the Gentlemen pulled off the Mask and acted in Character, manifesting by their Conduct that they dreaded nothing more than that the Minds of the People should be quieted, and all Pretence of Uneasiness removed; as being conscious to themselves that they would then soon appear in their proper Colours, and lose that Influence over the People which has actually cost the Country above ten thousand Pounds of this Currency, and to the Continuance of which pernicious Influence, every desirable Thing for the People's Happiness was to be sacrificed. This appeared so evidently, that your House applied for another Conference